

### Weekly column for July 29, 2004

Is it possible that July is already over? Where has the summer gone? Soon we will be talking about plowing snow and where has 2004 gone? All well, time flies when you're having fun, and we have plenty of fun left this summer.

We have two very exciting events taking place during the next month in Historic Downtown Troy, both involving businesses, music and fun.

The first event will take place in less than one week along River Street, which many of you know was already the home this summer to the ultra successful River Street Festival. And while this event will take place with much less fanfare, its success in my mind is already achieved.

The organizers are cleverly inviting people to "Celebrate under a River & Stars," and the night will help kick off the opening of 8 new businesses on River Street. You read that correctly, EIGHT! Just when we think this street has reached a high point, up pop eight new places for you to explore. We are going to shut down the southern most point of River Street from State Street to Congress Street, and there will be live music at Artie's River Street Stage.

I hope everyone can find some time on August 4<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. to come down to one of the crown jewels of the Capital District and celebrate with the new shops, as well as several businesses having anniversary parties.

The second event in downtown Troy during August will be the Rock the Block celebration on Third Street near Broadway. Deputy Mayor Dan Crawley and Mike Valente from the Hudson Duster are organizing this event, and will be more of an alternative gathering compared with other festivals. There will be a skate boarding demonstration, several bands, and food from local vendors. That blast will take place on August 20<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 9 p.m.

If anyone would like more information about these events they can contact my office at ask for Deputy Director of Public Information Jeff Buell. His number is 270-4554.

So despite the fact that summer seems to have already come and gone, there is still plenty left to do, and I'm not talking about going to Saratoga.

As usual if you have any questions, comments, concerns or complaints, drop me a line at 270-4401 or e-mail me at the Mayor's Office.